



Welcome Volunteer!

We thank you for volunteering with us and look forward to providing a wonderful volunteer experience for you. This Volunteer Packet will provide you and your group with a description of the volunteer work you will be doing as well as all pertinent information needed to prepare your group for a fun and rewarding volunteer experience. In addition, we would like to first share with you a little about The Greening of Detroit and the importance and benefits of tree planting in an urban city.

History and Mission

The Greening of Detroit has served as a leader of neighborhood green space development for two decades, creating sustainable, clean and green environments in Detroit's neighborhoods to benefit those who live, work, and have businesses in nearby communities. The organization was founded in 1989 by a group of committed business and community leaders who were dedicated to restoring the city's tree-lined boulevards, lush parks and wooded neighborhoods that had been left barren by decades of trees lost to Dutch Elm disease, storm damage, urban expansion and neglect. The Greening's role rapidly expanded beyond tree planting projects to meet the growing needs of the community, and today the organization's mission is to guide and inspire the growth of a "greener" Detroit through planting and educational programs, environmental leadership, advocacy, and by building community capacity.

Why Plant Trees

Detroit was originally designed for tree-lined streets. Since the 1950's, Detroit has lost nearly 500,000 trees on public and private property. The restoration of tree canopy along our streets, in our parks, at our schools, in vacant lots and open spaces is a key objective for The Greening of Detroit. We work with Detroit communities and the city in order to make this possible and by joining us in our effort, you will be a part of reforesting the city. There are many social, economic and ecological benefits to planting trees:

- ❖ Oxygen Production – All animals, including humans, need oxygen to survive. Trees take in carbon dioxide and produce oxygen.
- ❖ Carbon Sequestration – Trees have the capability of capturing and storing tons of carbon and is therefore a good method of climate protection.
- ❖ Air Pollution Abatement – Tree foliage reduces particulate matter from the air, including dust, micro sized metals, and pollutants such as ozone, nitrogen oxides, ammonia and sulfur dioxides.
- ❖ Water Quality Improvement and Storm water Management – Tree canopies and root systems provide a natural filter to our water supply and reduce storm water runoff, flooding and erosion.

- ❖ Wildlife Habitat – Trees provide food and shelter to many animals including birds, squirrels and insects.
- ❖ Energy Saving – Trees cool the air using both direct shade and the effects of water evaporating off the leaves.
- ❖ Enhancing Property Values – Studies show that shaded streets and well landscaped yards have a positive economic influence on property values and neighborhood desirability.
- ❖ Community Stability
- ❖ Beautification

The Greening of Detroit's 2012 plantings have been specifically designed to address storm water run-off, soil contamination, air quality and deforestation due to the Emerald Ash Borer. Funding for these plantings has been generously provided by the DTE Energy Foundation, Erb Family Foundation, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, and U.S. Forest Service. The plantings taking place on Saturday are in partnership with The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) as part of a storm water mitigation project.



Frequently Asked Questions

How do I sign up/register to volunteer with The Greening of Detroit?

Sign up one of two ways:

1. We ask that a representative/leader from each group provide The Greening of Detroit's Volunteer Coordinator Justin Wojciak at (313)237-8733 with the number of people volunteering at least a week prior to the planting.
2. You may register your group on-line at www.greeningofdetroit.com. and clicking on "Get Involved."

When and where do the planting events take place?

The Greening of Detroit plants every Saturday in the spring and fall. This fall, the season begins on September 24 and continues through November 19th. Tree plantings take place in neighborhoods throughout Detroit. Planting events start at 9:00a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m.

Do I need to bring tools?

No. The Greening of Detroit will bring all of the tools necessary for the planting including shovels, rakes, pickaxes, buckets and pitch forks. We do ask that you bring your own gardening gloves.

Will I receive instructions on how to properly plant a tree?

Yes. The Greening of Detroit's trained staff and Citizen Foresters will assist all volunteers with a tree planting demonstration and will work with all volunteers to ensure proper tree planting occurs.

What should I wear?

Volunteers should dress for the weather, wear comfortable clothes that you don't mind getting dirty, a hat and must have closed-toed shoes.

Do you plant if it is raining?

YES. The Greening of Detroit plants RAIN OR SHINE!

Are there bathroom facilities?

The Greening will map out public venues that will allow our volunteers access to their restrooms. This may include a nearby Church, Recreation Center, gas stations or fast food establishments.

Anything else?

We ask volunteers to bring their own snacks and water. On occasion, The Greening receives donations of water and snacks, but sometimes supplies are limited.

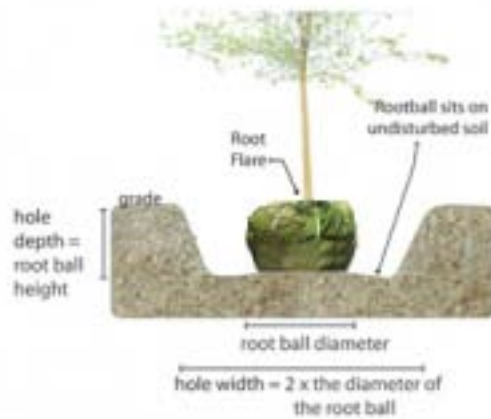
Interested in Becoming A Member?

For as little as \$25.00 a year individuals can join, meet other green-minded folks and take advantage of some wonderful benefits. Visit www.greeningofdetroit.com for a listing of membership levels and to sign up to become a member.



11 Steps to Planting a Perfect Tree!

Every tree planting event begins with a demonstration on the correct technique for planting a tree. Following are the steps to plant a tree.



1. **X marks the spot:** Locate an x in the grass next to your designated tree and make sure you have enough room to dig a proper hole.
2. **Remove the sod:** Begin digging the sod out in a circle, making sure the diameter is twice the size of the root ball, usually about 2 feet across. Place the sod in one pile.
3. **Dig out the soil:** Remove the soil and place in a separate pile from the sod.
4. **Measure the tree:** Use your shovel to measure the height of the root ball from the bottom to the root flare. Compare this height to the depth of your hole using a rake across the top representing the level of the ground. This is the optimal depth for your hole, usually about 3-4 feet deep.



5. **Roll the tree in:** At least two people should roll the tree into the hole: one person will push the root ball and one person will control the trunk so it remains upright

6. **Ensure the tree is straight:** Place the tree in the center of the hole and ensure the trunk is straight from all four directions. Place some soil around base and pack to stabilize the tree.
7. **Remove rope and burlap:** Cut the rope from the top of the rootball and fold back metal flaps. Pull the burlap away from the top of the rootball.



8. **Fill soil to the top of the rootball:** Place 3-4" layers of soil around the rootball, compacting with foot between each layer.
9. **Create a berm around the tree with sod:** Stack sod pieces (with grass side down) to create a circular retaining berm at edge of planting hole. Place remaining soil on top of berm to clean up planting area.
10. **Water the tree:** Slowly pour three 5 gallon buckets of water on the tree.
11. **Mulch the tree:** Distribute mulch across entire berm and inner area without touching the tree.





Volunteer Day Agenda

Over 20 years of planting the Greening of Detroit has developed a simple and systematic approach to organizing a successful event. Upon arrival, we organize volunteers into groups of 20-40 individuals which are later split into teams of 2-3 people.

A “Citizen Forester” or staff member is assigned to each group to answer questions and help complete the project. Most teams of volunteers can plant 2-3 trees. Some teams will plant more or less depending on planting conditions and their ability.

Unless otherwise stated, our volunteer plantings follow this general schedule:

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| 9:00 - 9:20 a.m. | Registration – Sign up at the welcome table to receive your group number and confirm your arrival. |
| 9:20- 9:30 a.m. | Welcome – Greening staff will introduce the project before organizing into groups of 20-40 volunteers to tackle sections of the project. |
| 9:30a - 10:00 a.m. | Planting Demonstration – Staff members or trained volunteers will demonstrate the greening’s planting method. This method has been proven successful in challenging urban environments. |
| 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Tree Planting – Teams of 2-3 volunteers will each choose and plant a tree. It generally takes about one hour to plant a tree. When finished, you may move on to the next tree. |
| 1:00 p.m. | Wrap Up – Collect your tools and return to the welcome area. Congratulate yourself and your teammates on a job well done! |



Greening Contacts

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